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BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1945

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending December, 1945.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report of your Medical Officer of Health together with that of your Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1945.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. JONES, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. C. T. Darwent, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., held a part-time appointment as District Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the Northamptonshire County Council, his duties extending to the Rural Districts of Brackley, Brixworth and Daventry and the Borough of Daventry. By his appointment under the County Council he was responsible for the examination of all elementary school children in those areas, and in addition conducted Child Welfare Clinics at Brackley Borough, Moulton, Brixworth, Welford and Weedon, and the Ante-Natal Clinic at Middleton Cheney.

Sanitary Inspector. The duties of the appointment of Sanitary Inspector are carried out by Mr. C. Morgan, who is also your Surveyor, Rating Officer and Farm Manager.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of Borough	1,685	acres
Population (Registrar General)	2,422	
Number of inhabited houses	740	
Rateable Value of Borough (1st April, 1945) ...	£12,773	
Sum represented by a rd. Rate	£50	

The health of the inhabitants of the Borough maintained its high level and the incidence of all notifiable infectious disease was particularly low. The following are the schools in the Borough: Winchester House School, a preparatory school for boys; Magdalen College School, a secondary school for boys; The High School, a secondary school for girls; Brackley Council School, a mixed school for senior elementary children; Brackley Church of England Schools, a mixed school for junior children and infants; and an approved school for girls, accommodation 24, governed by the Church Penitentiary Association under the supervision of the Children's Branch of the Home Office.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate	
				per 1000 of est. resdt.	Eng. & Wales
Live Births, Legitimate	35	17	18	15.2	16.1
Live Births, Illegitimate	2	2	—		
Totals ...	37	19	18		
Still-births					
Legitimate	3	1	2	1.2	0.46
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Total ...	3	1	2		

The birth-rate of 15.2 per 1,000 of the population is higher by 2.0 than the rate for the year 1944, and is lower by 0.9 than the rate for England and Wales for the year under review.

Deaths of Infants, under 1 year :—	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 live births.	
				Brackley	Eng. & Wales
Legitimate	1	—	1	27.0	46.0
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—

Death Rate					
Deaths from all causes	31	20	11	12.8	11.4

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and parat. fevers	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respir. System	...	—	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	1	1
Measles	...	—	—
Influenza	...	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-enceph.	...	—	—
Acute infectious enceph.	...	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph.	1	—	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Cancer of breast	...	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	...	3	4
Diabetes	...	—	—
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	2	3
Heart disease	...	6	8
Other diseases of circ. system	...	—	—
Bronchitis	...	1	1
Pneumonia	...	—	—
Other resp. diseases	...	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum...	...	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	—	—
Appendicitis	...	—	—
Other digestive diseases	...	1	2
Nephritis	...	1	1
Puerperal and post. abort. sepsis	...	—	—
Other maternal causes	...	—	—
Premature birth	...	—	—
Congenital mal. birth inj. infant dis.	...	—	—
Suicide	...	—	—
Road traffic accidents	...	—	—
Other violent causes	...	1	1
All other causes	...	4	7
Total	...	20	31

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities. All pathological specimens and samples of water were examined at the Oxford Branch of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory under Professor Wilson.

Ambulance Facilities : Infectious Diseases. The Council is a participating authority in the West Northamptonshire Joint Hospital Board Scheme and the Board's ambulance is available for the removal of infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital at Staverton. A nurse accompanies the ambulance.

For **Surgical and Medical Cases**—the local St. John Ambulance is available and has in the past rendered prompt and valuable service.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics continued to operate during the year, sessions being held every second Thursday of the month ; talks and demonstrations on health matters were given. Ante-natal care, advice and supervision is also available at Middleton Cheney for Brackley residents on the first Wednesday afternoon in each month.

A Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital Surgeon conducts a Clinic once monthly in the Brackley Council School.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. (i) **Water Supply.** The head level of water in the well in January of the year under review was 9 ft. 6 ins. and in December it was 7 ft. The supply was not cut off at any time during the year. The chlorination plant continued to operate satisfactorily and samples of water taken and submitted for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory, the water falling into Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's grading.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The sewage works continued to function satisfactorily during the year. With the exception of 18 houses in out-lying parts of the Borough, all houses are connected to the Council's system of sewers.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No complaints were received regarding the pollution of streams by the effluent from the sewage disposal works.

3. **Public Cleansing.** House refuse is collected weekly; horse-drawn vehicles owned by the Council were used for this purpose during part of the year. During June of the year under review the Council purchased a 2½ ton truck and this was used for house refuse collection during the remainder of the year.

Camping Sites. There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement. No action was found to be necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Baths and Pools. The public swimming pool, which was filled from the Council's water mains, was used during the year.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 75
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 94
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... —
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation... —
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 19
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers ... 14
3. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... —
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners ... —
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

Statistics in relation to overcrowding are not available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.** The number of milk producers in the Borough is six; their premises were inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a proper manner. All milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area.

(b) **Food and Drugs Act, 1938.** Premises used for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

(c) **Meat and Other Foods.** The Government Slaughter-house continued to operate during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows :—800 cattle, 3599 sheep and lambs, 93 calves and 90 pigs. Upon inspection meat and offal weighing 6 tons 11 cwts, 24 lbs. were found to be diseased and unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

The following unsound foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered during the year :—14 tins fish, 6 tins luncheon meat, 19 tins beans, 1 tin soup, 67 tins fruit, 18 eggs, 59 tins milk, 5 tins syrup, 1 tin of marmalade, 9lbs. cheese, 28lbs. wet fish, 28lbs. of dates, 26 fish cakes, 9 packets cereals, 66lbs. sugar.

Diseased meat and offal were collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year :—

Pneumonia	2
Measles *	28

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1945.

Disease	Total Remvd.										
	Und. 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs. & over
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	—	2	1	1	—	12	14	1	—	—	31
Total	—	2	1	1	—	12	14	1	1	—	34

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table gives details of the child population completing the full course of immunization at any time up to 31st December of the year under review :—

Age at 3.12.45	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total Under 15.
Year of Birth	---	1944	1943	1942	1941	1936-40	1931-35	
No. Immunized	---	18	25	27	20	109	154	353
Est. Mid Year pop. 1945		189					328	
Percentage Immunized			48				80	

Parents who desire their children immunized should notify the Medical Officer of Health; Miss Green, Health Visistor; or Mr. C. Morgan, Sanitary Inspector, at 29, Market Place, and arrangements will be made for the treatment.

Tuberculosis. No new case of tuberculosis was reported during the year. There was one female death from tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) during the year.

Scabies. No case of scabies was reported during the year.

November, 1946.

